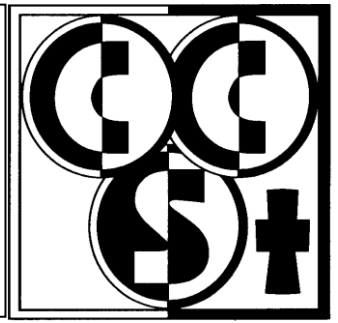




Why is Reading So Important?

Did you know that specific groups of children are far more likely to fail. For some children this will be related to additional needs, but for many children the reason is less clear. The reading gap between boys and girls in England is one of the widest in the developed world. Children from poorer backgrounds are also more likely to fall behind. Every child should have the support they need to prevent this from happening. ***At Christ Church we are committed to raising standards in reading for ALL pupils.***



Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Reading with your child

Sharing a book with your child allows you to share adventures and experiences in the safe world of the book. It allows you to ask questions, talk about what has happened and decide what you think together.

How often should I read to my child, and how long for?

- Be guided by how long they will listen. For younger children this may be quite short periods of time, while slightly older children may be ready to listen for longer.
- As for how often, there's no right answer, but many experts suggest a routine helps. For school-age children, a bedtime story can be a nice way for you to spend a small amount of time together and wind down after a busy day.

What should I read to my child, what should they be reading, and when?

- With hundreds of books in your local library, school or bookshop, it can be hard to know where to start when choosing a book for your child. Remember that as adults we like to re-read favourite books, relax with a magazine or tackle something challenging. Children are the same, so encourage choices – maybe a familiar book for re-reading as well as something new. Don't show disapproval if your child returns to favourites.
- You can find advice on what books children of different ages might enjoy reading on the Puffin website: www.puffin.co.uk
- If you're stuck for something to catch your children's imaginations, it might be worth asking their teacher or a librarian for some advice.

What do I do if my child doesn't enjoy reading?

- Make sure your child isn't tired, hungry or desperate to watch their favourite TV programme when you read to them. Sit with them for a short time every day and read

a book with them on a subject that interests them, whether that's cars, animals or sports. Don't expect them to read it for themselves. Just show them how interesting it is to be able to read so that they want to do it for themselves.

- For many children, especially boys as they get older, non-fiction books are more interesting than fiction, so it may be as simple as changing the type of books you are reading together. Talk to your teacher or a local children's librarian to see what books are available that match your child's interests.
- Give plenty of praise. Let your child know how pleased you are when he or she looks at a book. Show interest in what they have chosen. Children really do develop at their own rates when it comes to reading.
- Check out Julia Donaldson's (author) tips for getting children of all ages to read. (Link is on our website)

